

IN THE CLAIMS:

1 - 2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) ~~The nickel metal hydride storage battery according to claim 1~~ A nickel metal hydride storage battery comprising a positive electrode comprising nickel hydroxide as an active material, a negative electrode comprising a hydrogen absorbing alloy containing aluminum as a component of the alloy, a separator and an alkaline electrolyte, wherein an aromatic carboxylic acid which forms a complex with aluminum ions is included in the negative electrode, wherein a layer comprising a hydroxide or oxide of an element selected from the group consisting of calcium, strontium, scandium, yttrium, lanthanoids and bismuth is formed on a surface of the positive electrode active material and is in direct contact with the nickel hydroxide active material.

4. (canceled)